

**Read it  
yourself**

**LEVEL 4**

The  
**Pied Piper  
of  
Hamelin**



**Ladybird**



**This book belongs to:**

---



Published by Ladybird Books Ltd  
80 Strand London WC2R 0PL  
A Penguin Company

19 20

© LADYBIRD BOOKS LTD MCMXCVIII


LADYBIRD and the device of a Ladybird are trademarks of Ladybird Books Ltd  
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any  
means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,  
without the prior consent of the copyright owner.

Printed in Italy

# The Pied Piper of Hamelin

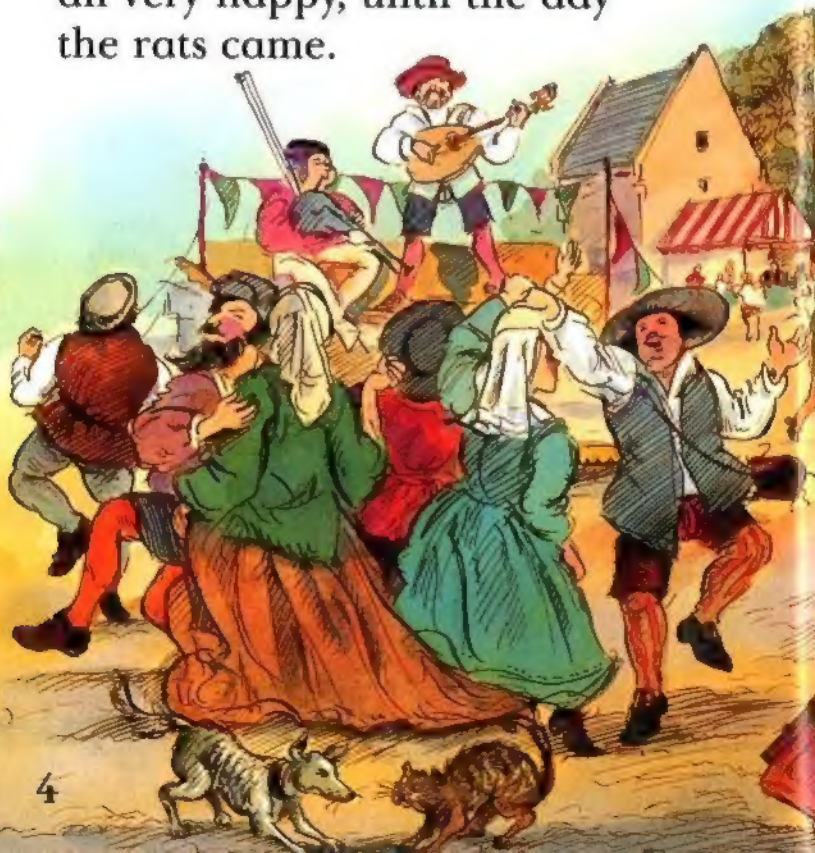
illustrated by John Holder



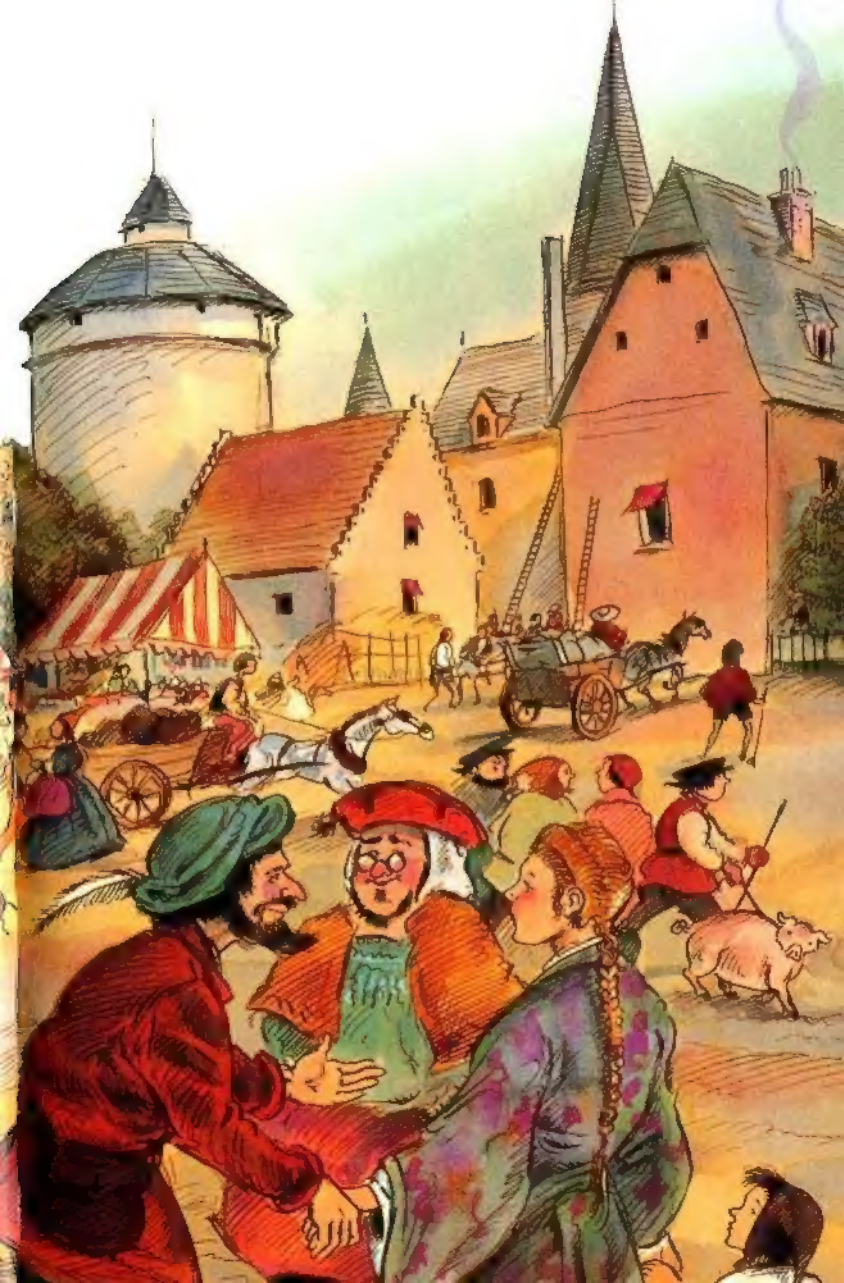
  
Ladybird

Once upon a time, there was  
a beautiful little town  
called Hamelin.

The people of Hamelin were  
all very happy, until the day  
the rats came.







Thousands of rats came to Hamelin. There were big rats and little rats, thin rats and fat rats. There were rats in all the houses and rats in all the shops.







"There are rats on my table!"  
said one man.

"There are rats under my chair!"  
said another.

"There are rats in my kitchen!"  
called one woman.

"There are rats in my bed!"  
called another.





“There are rats all over the house!” called a little boy.

“Make these rats go away!” called a little girl.







The people of Hamelin went to see the mayor.

“Get rid of these rats!” they shouted.

“What can I do?” said the mayor.  
“There are rats in my house, too.  
I can’t get rid of them.”





But the people said, "You must make all the rats go away. If you don't make them go away we will choose another mayor."





Then one day, a stranger went to see the mayor. He was dressed in red and yellow. In his hand he carried a pipe.

“I am the Pied Piper,” said the stranger, “and I can make the rats go away.”







The mayor said, "If you can make these rats go away, I will give you lots of money."

"Very well," said the Pied Piper.  
"But don't forget your promise."

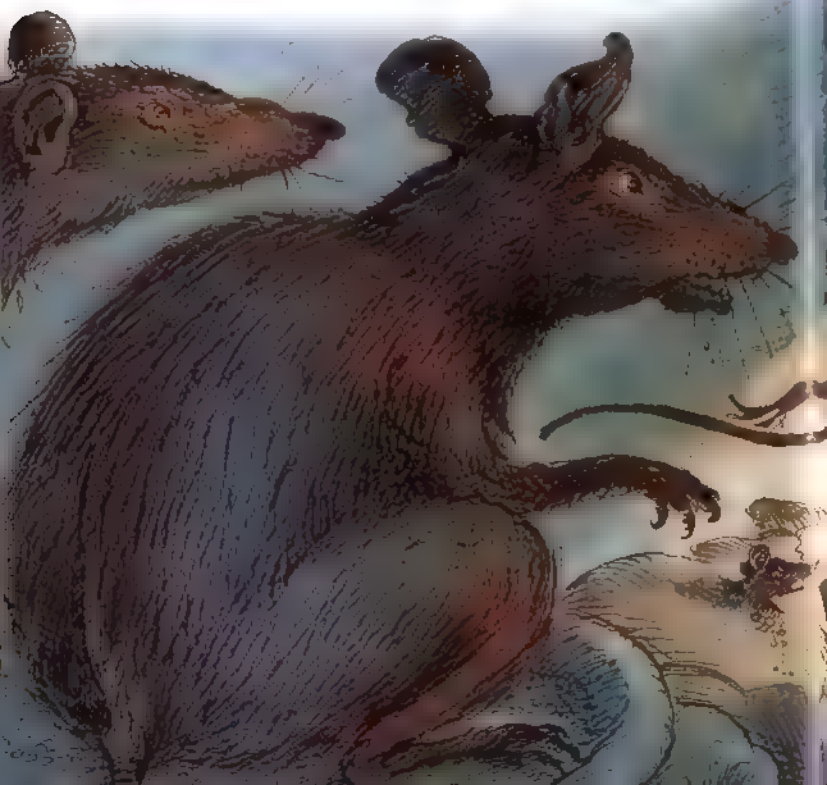
Then the Pied Piper went into the streets of Hamelin and began to play a strange tune.





The rats heard the tune and  
stopped what they were doing.

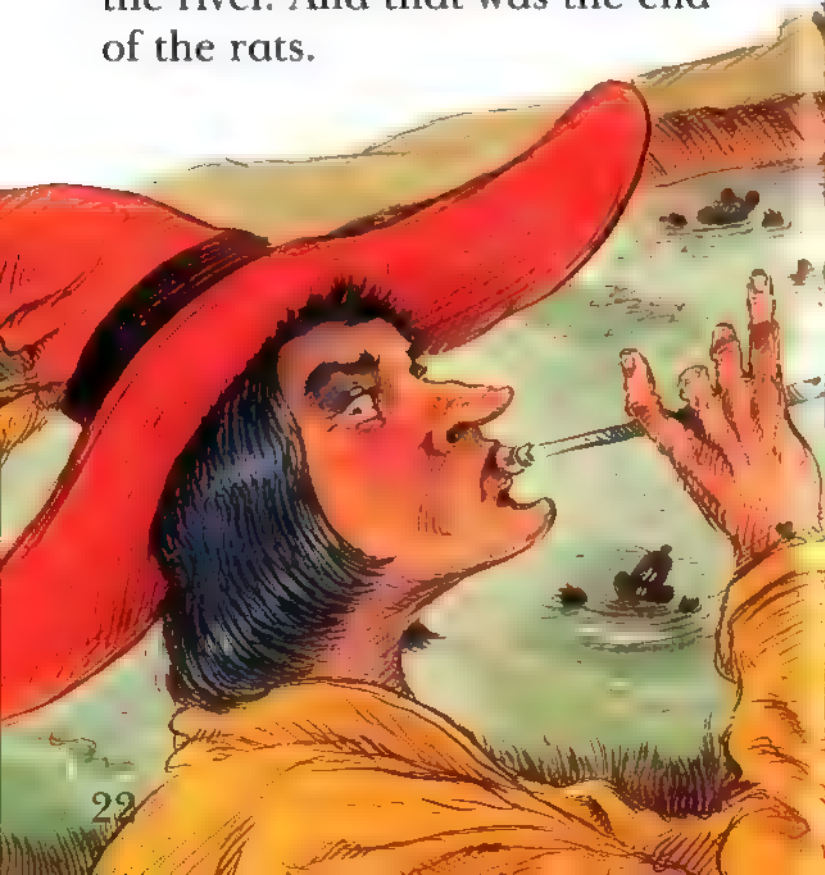
Suddenly, one rat ran after the  
Pied Piper. Then another rat ran  
after him. And another. Soon, all  
the rats ran after the Pied Piper.







The Pied Piper walked towards the river, still playing the strange tune on his pipe. The rats followed him and jumped into the river. And that was the end of the rats.

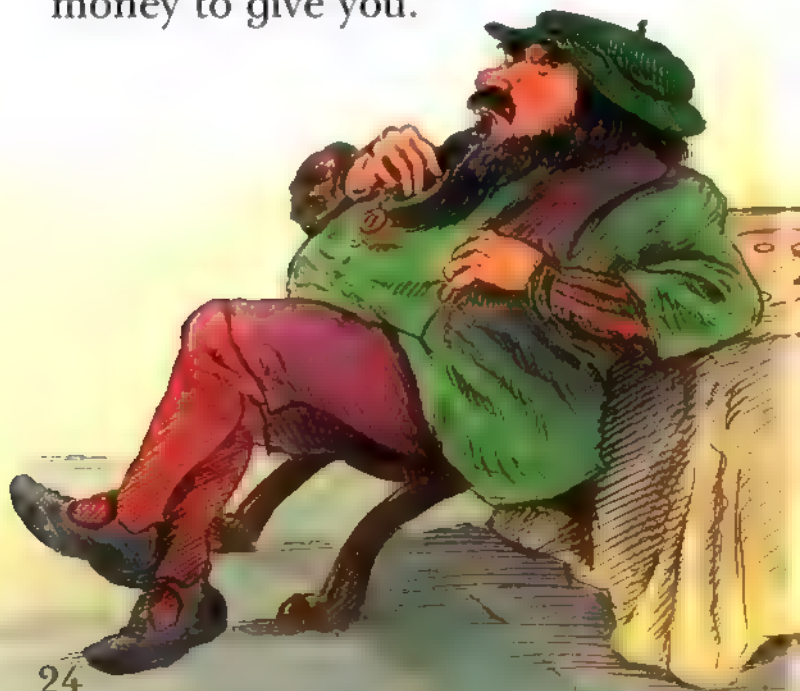




The Pied Piper went back to see the mayor.

"The rats have all gone," he said. "Please give me the money you promised me."

"No," said the mayor. "I have no money to give you."





“If you don’t give me the money,”  
said the Pied Piper, “I will play  
another tune, and you will not be  
so happy then.”

“You can do what you like,” said  
the mayor.







So the Pied Piper went out into the streets and began to play another tune.

In all the houses and in all the streets, the children stopped playing. Then, one by one, they ran after the Pied Piper.





The people of Hamelin called to the children to stop, but the children didn't hear. They followed the Pied Piper through the streets and over the river.







They followed the Pied Piper out  
of the town and up a mountain.





Suddenly, the mountain opened up and the Pied Piper went inside. The children followed him. Inside the mountain was a beautiful land full of trees and flowers and birds.





But one little boy had hurt his leg and he couldn't keep up with the other children. He saw his friends go into the mountain, but he was too late to follow them.







The little boy went back to the town and went to see the mayor.

“My friends are inside the mountain with the Pied Piper,” he said. “They will never come back.”





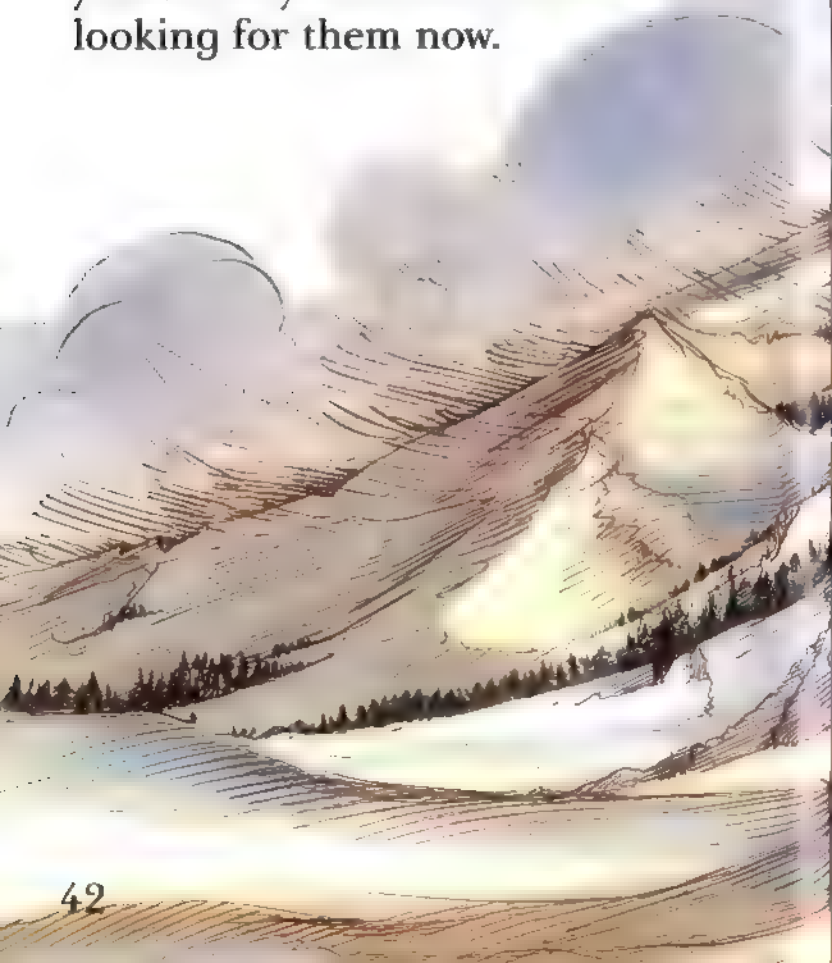
The people of Hamelin were very unhappy.

“Where are our children?” they shouted to the mayor. “You must go and find them.”





So the mayor went to look for the children. He looked for years and years and years. He is still looking for them now.







*Read It Yourself* is a series of graded readers designed to give young children a confident and successful start to reading.

*Level 4* is suitable for children who are ready to read longer stories with a wider vocabulary. The stories are told in a simple way and with a richness of language which makes reading a rewarding experience. Repetition of new vocabulary reinforces the words the child is learning and exciting illustrations bring the action to life.

### About this book

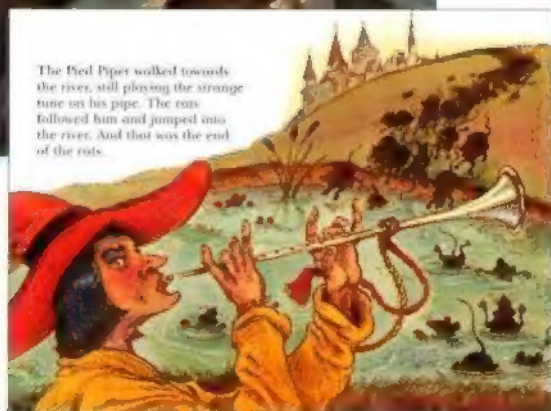
At this stage children may prefer to read the story aloud to an adult without first discussing the pictures. Although children are now progressing towards silent, independent reading, they need to know that adult help and encouragement is readily available.

When children meet a word they do not know, these words can be worked out by looking at the beginning letter (*what sound does this letter make?*) and other sounds the child recognises within the word. The child can then decide which word makes sense.

*Nearly independent readers need lots of praise and encouragement.*

## Read It Yourself Level 4

- Clear type
- Full, exciting story
- Wider and more interesting vocabulary
- Detailed pictures for added entertainment and discussion





# Read it yourself

A series of popular, traditional tales written in a simple way for children who are learning to read.

## LEVEL 1

for children who are ready to take their first steps in reading

The Enormous Turnip • The Magic Porridge Pot  
The Three Billy Goats Gruff • The Ugly Duckling  
Goldilocks and the Three Bears • Little Red Hen

## LEVEL 2

for beginner readers who can read short simple sentences with help

The Gingerbread Man • The Three Little Pigs  
Town Mouse and Country Mouse • Chicken Licken  
Little Red Riding Hood • Sly Fox and Red Hen

## LEVEL 3

for more confident readers who can read simple stories with help

The Elves and the Shoemaker • Rapunzel  
Thumbelina • Jack and the Beanstalk  
Puss in Boots • Hansel and Gretel

## LEVEL 4

longer stories for more fluent readers

The Pied Piper of Hamelin • Peter and the Wolf  
Heidi • Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs  
The Wizard of Oz • Dick Whittington

ISBN 0-7214-1958-5



9 780721 419589 >

£ 2.50